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**Title:**

Press release - Leader amazed at Speaker voting for 20% increase in water rates  
(excess)

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PRESS RELEASE BY THE LEADER OF THE  
OPPOSITION, DON DUNSTAN Q.C., M.P.

OCTOBER, 1968

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Dunstan, said this week he was amazed at the decision of the Speaker in the House of Assembly, Mr. Stott, to vote in favor of a 20 per cent increase in excess water rates.

He said: "I am sure Mr. Stott's decision to give his casting vote against an A.L.P. motion to have the charges reviewed, was contrary to the feelings and wishes of people in his electorate who depend a lot on the use of excess water.

"Now as a result of his vote, country people, and especially those in areas where large usage of water is essential, will have to bear this 20 per cent increase as virtually the only people affected by an increase of this sort are those in the country.

"Yet the L.C.L., who Mr. Stott supported, claims it looks after the interests of country people. It was the Opposition who opposed the increase in rates.

"I can only conclude," Mr. Dunstan said, "that people in the River Murray districts are being short changed by their members who voted for an increase in excess water rates."

In August, the A.L.P. Member for Stuart, Mr. Riches, moved to have the increase of 20 per cent in charges for excess water reviewed. He said it would place an undue burden on the community, particularly market gardeners, householders and country residents.

Mr. Dunstan said: "The people of South Australia are entitled to something better than this impost of the L.C.L. Government.

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"South Australians co-operated with the Labor Government to the extent that the worst drought for years was weathered without the need to impose water restrictions. Now the drought has broken, we have had a very wet winter, and the L.C.L. Government sees fit to impose water charges on the citizens of South Australia.

"The fact that it has been levied on excess water means that most of the increase will be borne by people living outside the city of Adelaide, although B.H.P. for example, who have to use vast quantities of water, will be exempted because they have a contractual agreement on this.

"I am disappointed," Mr. Dunstan said, "that Mr. Stott did not stand up for the people of this district and vote against this measure.

"Country people will have to pay for the increase, yet Mr. Stott let the matter lapse without doing anything for the people of Ridley."

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